

# Tough Tormented Kids

## *A Father's Day Message*

### **A Tormented Child**

17. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." 19. "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." 20. So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23. "If you can't?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." 24. Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" 25. When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." 26. The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." 27. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. 28. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" 29. He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer. "

### **A Little Child**

36. He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37. "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

### **An Offended Child**

42. "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.

### **A Blessed Child**

**Mark 10:13.** People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16. And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. - Mark 9:22-26

### *The Context*

**A Tormented Child** – Mark 9:17-29

**A Little Child** – Mark 9:36-37

**Offending Little Ones** – Mark 9:42

**Divorced** – Mark 10:1-12

**Little Children Blessed** – Mark 10:13-16

## Introduction:

Let's look at Tommy Terrible. He was ADD, ADHD, dysfunctional, dyslexic, and epileptic, speechless, violent, even suicidal. He was tough, terrible, and tormented.

How did Tommy get so tormented? He was demonized. How did that happen? Usually by someone else's hand, not a child's own sin. Tommy's problem was also a family problem.

Like a physician we can deduce surmise how this might have come about by looking first at the symptoms and seeking to address the causes.

I suppose after 34 years of ministry, I have spoken to hundreds of tormented adults whose emotional, physical, moral, and spiritual problems did not just happen. They were precipitated and sometimes caused by other people. They were the resultant effect, or the sum total of problems encountered in childhood and early teen years. Usually they had to do with parents.

### Exodus 20:5b

"...for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing (**visiting**) the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,"

No, it doesn't say that exactly, that is a paraphrase, an attempt to make it clear by someone's interpretation. What does the original Hebrew text say?

[\(Deuteronomy 5:9\)](#) - *"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,"*

[\(Deuteronomy 24:16\)](#) - *"Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin."*

[\(Ezekiel 18:20\)](#) - *"The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself."*

**So Tommy's torments were most likely not his own failure or disobedience but the result of the failure of the parents – principally the father or grandfather.**

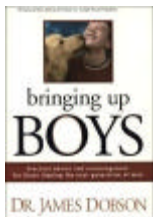
That is not to blame and shame all fathers for all the ills of their children, but a truth is evident here, elsewhere in Scripture, and in today's world of psychology, fathers have a tremendous influence on their sons.

There are tormented children whose torments are brought on by fathers who wound their children's hearts.

**I want to speak to you about two concerns  
addressed in these passages:**

1. Bruised Kids – wounded spirits
2. Blessed Kids – healing legacy

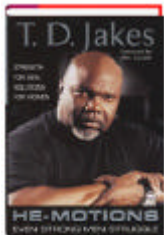
**Three Books On the Subject**



**Bringing Up Boys – James Dobson**



**The Blessing –  
Gary Smalley and John Trent**



**He-Motions – TD Jakes,**

Men ought to be required reading for every father and would-be father.

# I. Bruised Kids – Wounded Hearts, bruised spirits

*Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate (provoke anger) your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*

*Psalms 142:4 “No man cared for my soul.”*

“A man’s relationship with his father often causes all kinds of complications with his relationship with his Heavenly Father.” – TD Jakes, p 104

“The significance of father’s affirming and nurturing his children in ways that are distinct from mother’s contribution. He is a model for masculinity.” – TD Jakes, p 104

“A father’s love is a vital part of a man’s development throughout his life. Don’t pretend you don’t want or need it. – TD Jakes, p 107

40% of American children will go to sleep tonight in homes without a father.  
David Blankerhorn, *Fatherless America*

## **John Eldridge – *Wild at Heart***

*Masculinity is bestowed. A boy learns who he is and what he’s got from a man (his dad). He cannot learn it from another place. He cannot learn it from other boys... or from the world of women. The plan from the beginning was that his father would lay the foundation for a young boy’s heart... Dad would be the first man in his life and forever most important. Above all he (Dad) will answer the question: Who am I? Am I a man? Do I have what it takes? Will I succeed? Do you love me? Do you approve of me?*

(ie) Turlocks in James Michener's *Chesapeake*

(ie) Jukes and Edwards Families

(ie) Adam’s response to being yelled at

(ie) My Mom – junk man, worthless, stupid, lazy

(ie) My Brother – locked in a car trunk by uncle while Dad looked on and laughed.

(ie) My Sister wept at wedding. Dad never kissed her before, no show of affection

## **Wounded Children:**

By teachers, other children, uncles, and fathers.

(ie) *Cats In the Cradle* – Artist: Harry Chapin

*“The psychological distance of fathers from their children is one of the greatest understated tragedies of our day. The distance is contrary to Scripture which define the role of father and son.” – Norman Wright*

**Isaac blessed Jacob, but not Esau.**

**Esau wept, “Oh Father bless me also!”**

## II. Blessed Kids – A Godly Heritage

Gary Smalley and John Trent in The Blessing.

### 1. A Meaningful Touch

Bait a hook. Catch a snake, bullfrog, or grasshoppers. Wrestle, Pull a sliver, back rub, (ie) Field of Dreams – Hey, Dad? You Wanna Have a Catch?

### 2. Positive Spoken Words

I Love you. You are special. I proud that you are my son. I will never stop loving you no matter what. You could never do anything to make me stop loving you.

### 3. Affirmed Inestimable Value

I always wanted a son like you. You're the best son a Dad could ever have. Brag on your son in his hearing. Believe in him. Tell him so.

### 4. Envisioning Hope (word pictures) a great future

Dream with your son. Think of all the things that he could be. You can be anything you put your mind to be. You can do anything you want to do, and succeed. Read! Tell stories. Give him your heritage – your life story.

### 5. Promised Assistance in attaining it.

I will always be there for you. You can always ask me anything or ask me for anything. I will die for you.

(ie) Andrew at Torres – I will die for you, die trying

(ie) Matthew and peeing outdoors

~~ie~~ Read to your boys. – (ie) Guy stories, (The Princess Bride), Hardy Boys, Sugar

~~ie~~ Wrestle, play, rough-house

~~ie~~ Help them bait a hook, gut a fish, gut a deer, squirrel

~~ie~~ Hang out, be a guy

~~ie~~ Take them fishing without yelling.

~~ie~~ Stop yelling and start telling.

~~ie~~ Do things together

~~ie~~ Go to a ball game together. Let them eat.

~~ie~~ Pass gas

~~ie~~ Be silly, stupid, funny

~~ie~~ Be vulnerable – show your fears, failures, frustrations

## Talk, Tell, Try

Conversations – choosing a wife, sex, marriage, becoming a man, falling in love, absolutes, values, ethics, morals, convictions – **tell them why!**

(ie) My Dad telling stories of growing up, granddad, the army

# Conclusion

*“Hey Dad, Stop yelling, and start telling”*

"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. – Mark 9:42

**Change My Heart O God.**

# Cats In The Cradle Lyrics

Artist: Harry Chapin

<p>My child arrived just the other day He came to the world in the usual way But there were planes to catch and bills to pay He learned to walk while I was away And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew He'd say "I'm gonna be like you dad You know I'm gonna be like you"</p> <p>And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home dad? I don't know when, but we'll get together then son You know we'll have a good time then</p> <p>My son turned ten just the other day He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play Can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today I got a lot to do", he said, "That's ok" And he walked away but his smile never dimmed And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah You know I'm gonna be like him"</p> <p>And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home son? I don't know when, but we'll get together then son You know we'll have a good time then</p> <p>Well, he came home from college just the other day So much like a man I just had to say "Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?" He shook his head and said with a smile "What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys See you later, can I have them please?"</p>	<p>And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home son? I don't know when, but we'll get together then son You know we'll have a good time then</p> <p>I've long since retired, my son's moved away I called him up just the other day I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind" He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad It's been sure nice talking to you"</p> <p>And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me He'd grown up just like me My boy was just like me</p> <p>And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon When you comin' home son? I don't know when, but we'll get together then son You know we'll have a good time then</p>
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## Jukes

But of the 709 he was able to study, 180 had been in the "poorhouse" or received public assistance. Dugdale found 140 criminals or offenders. There were 60 "thieves," 7 murder victims, 50 prostitutes and 40 women who had contracted sexually transmitted diseases.

Dugdale was able to estimate that the Jukes had cost the State of New York almost \$1.4 million dollars to house, institutionalize and treat the family of deviants.

Of 1026 descendants of Max (Hans) Juke, 300 were convicts, 27 were murderers, 190 were prostitutes and 509 were either alcoholics or drug addicts.

## Edwards

By contrast, the 929 descendants of Jonathan Edwards included 13 college presidents, 86 college professors, 430 ministers, 314 war veterans, 75 authors, 100 lawyers, 30 judges, 66 physicians, and 80 holders of public office, including three U.S. Senators, seven congressmen, mayors of three large cities, governors of three states, a Vice-President of the United States, and a controller of the United States Treasury.

Having a strong, disciplined and godly family does not guarantee success for generations to come. But the studies of Juke and Edwards confirms what we know in our hearts. The way we live our lives has a profound impact on people around us and on generations to come. We must be careful, then, how we live our family lives. Our great, great, grandchildren are watching.